

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/608,231
Sughrue Ref: Q76187

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 2 has been amended to show that element 24a is now 24b and element 24b is now 24a;

Figure 3: element 17a has been added; and

Proposed new Figures 6A and 6B have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
New Sheet

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

By way of this Amendment, Applicants submit herewith corrected Figures 2 and 5 along with new Figs. 6A and 6B showing the connector cover 9 in the locked position. These figures are intended to compliment Figures 1 and 2 in which the connector cover 9 is in the unlocked position. Approval of these new drawings is respectfully requested. In addition, Applicants have amended the specification to discuss Figures 6A and 6B. Finally, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3-5 and cancelled claim 2. For the following reasons, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Turning to the substance of the Office Action, as noted above, Applicants have submitted herewith new Figs. 6A and 6B which provides support for the features recited in dependent claim 3. Figures 1 and 2 only show the case where the claimed cover member is located at the claimed second position. New Figs. 6A and 6B show the case with the claimed cover member in the claimed first position. Thus, it is submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Turning to the prior art rejection based on Murakami, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,279), claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the stationary member is provided with a first connecting part and a second connecting part and that the access to the second connecting part is disabled by the cover member when it is located at the second position. The Examiner asserts that the members 11a and 30 in Murakami, et al. respectively correspond to the claimed second connecting part and the claimed second connecting member. However, even when the member

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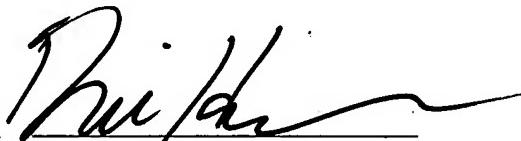
50 in Murakami et al., corresponding to the claimed cover member, is located in the position corresponding to the claimed second position, the attachment of the member 30 is still permitted. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over Murakami, et al.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

It is therefore requested that the application be passed to issuance at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 4, 2005